Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Sunday 18 Dec 2022 until 23:59 on Monday 19 Dec 2022

Forecast Issued on Sunday 18 Dec 2022 at 03:15

Confidence: High confidence for a windy and wet day on Sunday with a rapid change to milder conditions in the evening. Moderate confidence for a period of freezing rain during the afternoon as precipitation changes from snow to rain. Mild and windy for much of Monday but turning colder again on the summits by Tuesday. Lower confidence on timings of rainfall and cloud levels.

Headline for Sunday 18 Dec 2022: Dry at first. Rain, sleet and snow moving east, gales expected, hazardous conditions later.

Mountain weather hazards on Sunday 18 Dec 2022

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Cloudy	Heavy snow	Sleet	Sleet	Drizzle
Precipitation probability					
30%	30%	60%	60%	60%	60%

Forecast for Sunday 18 Dec 2022

Weather: Southeasterly gales developing and a band of sleet or snow, soon turning to rain will spread east causing an ice hazard underfoot and the risk of freezing rain. Risk of blizzard conditions at first. Sleet and rain will turn heavy at times during the afternoon and winds strengthening to severe gales for a time will make for hazardous conditions on the fells with poor visibility likely too. Drier later but drizzle and fog likely to linger and snowmelt likely to occur during the evening will turn the ground very boggy.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90% falling to 40% later, low cloud forming in association with frontal rain spreading east.

Low cloud and visibility: Initially good visibility and very little cloud below the summits but by late morning layers of cloud will start forming above 500m, becoming broken or extensive in the south, possibly more scattered around northern fells. Visibility will turn poor or even very poor in fog patches and heavy sleet and rain, risk of blizzards in the morning before freezing level rises with near zero visibility at times.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Sunday 18 Dec 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	42/50 SE	51/60 SE	47/58 SE	49/61 SE	39/50 SE	32/42 SE	40/50 SE
600	39/53 SE	40/54 SE	41/57 SE	40/56 SE	39/56 SE	33/46 SE	34/48 SE
300	12/36 SE	14/41 SE	16/42 SE	13/40 SE	14/38 SE	11/32 SE	10/33 SE
Valley	9/30 SE	12/35 SE	13/34 SE	12/34 SE	13/33 SE	13/30 SE	12/32 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-1/-10	-2/-12	-2/-12	-1/-11	1/-8	5/-1	6/0
600	-1/-11	-1/-11	-2/-12	-1/-10	1/-8	4/-3	5/-1
300	0/-5	0/-5	0/-6	2/-4	3/-2	4/1	6/3
Valley	1/-3	2/-3	1/-4	3/-1	4/0	6/2	7/4
Freezing Level*	100m	100m	200m	400m	2200m	2200m	2400m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A severe wind chill early in the day in strong winds but note how rapidly freezing level rises later in the day. Gales or severe gales will cause severe buffeting and driving sleet and then rain with the risk of freezing rain turning things very icy. A rapid thaw is likely to begin during the evening as temperatures rise.

Forecast for Monday 19 Dec 2022

Weather: Feeling milder than recent weeks and a wet and windy day with gales expected. Outbreaks of rain throughout the day and falling as rain at all levels, a rapid thaw is likely with conditions underfoot becoming very wet and water courses becoming full. Perhaps dry for a time in the afternoon and later in the evening but remaining cloudy.

Maximum wind: Southerly 30-35mph gusts 45-55mph

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20 rising to 50% later, more chance as rain becomes lighter later.

Low cloud and visibility: Broken or extensive low cloud layers above 3-400m in the morning, perhaps more scattered further north in the Lake District. Visibility will be poor in outbreaks of rain but becoming moderate later as rain becomes lighter. Cloud will thin and lift a little towards 5-600m in the afternoon with some gaps at times.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 7 rising to 13 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 5 Celsius
Freezing level: Above all summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Saturday 17 December Location: Helvellyn summit at 17:23

A dry day with light winds and sunny spells but with cloud shrouding many of the higher tops for much of the day. Fresh snowfall overnight, initially down to low levels (particularly to the south of Dunmail Raise with somewhat less in the north lakes).

The snowline this morning above Glenridding was around 400m but with slowly thawing frozen ground and ice still present down to valley level. Water ice is present on and around paths adjacent to drainage lines, particularly at low and mid-elevations and care should be taken around these areas.

Many upland tarns and other water features are frozen over and with fresh snowfall on top of the ice, some of them may be difficult to identify.

A more westerly wind direction has redistributed snow onto east-facing slopes and the greatest accumulations can be found on these slope aspects above 900m where windslab is now present and small cornices are beginning to develop.

Swirral and Striding Edge are both in full winter condition, however, snow cover is still relatively lean and unconsolidated meaning that there is still plenty of snowed-up and exposed rock to negotiate.

The summit windchill (feels-like) temperature in light to moderate winds today was around -8ºC making it feel very cold if stood still even for short periods of time. Full winter clothing (warm and waterproof) including hats and gloves, a map and compass as well as a headtorch are all essential for anyone venturing into the hills.

Microspikes and/or walking poles are recommended for anyone venturing above the snowline and for attempting steep and exposed routes such as the Helvellyn edges, and ice axe and crampons should be carried.

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